the resolutions and pledges of no account, the conviction of no validity, they wondered why, many explanations being offered, some indignant, some despairing, and some struggling still to be hopeful. Statesmen were to blame for wrongly interpreting, or wilfully misinterpreting, the will of those they represented. Or, class interest was to blame,[17] leading the privileged to prefer the hazards of war to promoting a universal peace which might jeopardise their privileges; making them acquiesce in Japan's and Italy's acts of aggression, and in Germany's growing strength, for fear that if these countries were frustrated, their Governments would be discredited, and proletarian revolutions result. Or, the League's ideals in the present condition of mankind, had proved too exalted to be practicable, but their application, having once been attempted, would doubtless be attempted again, probably with greater success.

Such explanations, each sufficiently plausible to satisfy some troubled minds, most found inadequate. If statesmen had betrayed the trust imposed in them, all were alike guilty, since all had at different times been entrusted with power; if armament manufacturers and others fearful for their class interests and profits, were to blame, how had a situation been allowed to arise which threatened to encompass their ruin as surely as the ruin of those they preyed upon? A Rothschild in flight from Vienna, and stripped of all his possessions, scarcely suggested that the Anschluss was good for dividends; and the losses sustained by persons with capital invested in the Far East as a result of Japanese depredations there, made it seem unlikely that their

interests and Japan's were identical. As for the League's high endeavour, brought to nothing this time by mankind's present moral short-comings, but perhaps meeting with a better response hereafter—that was as may be; only, looking back, more low than high endeavour was noticeable in the League's proceedings.

[17] An assiduous promoter of this view has been 'Vigilantes', a pseudonym which became unnecessary when in 1938 K. Zilliacus, whose identity it Md, left the League Secretariat after being employed for eighteen years in the Information Department. See, for instance, his *Between Two Wars,*